

b.) Remarks

Claims 1, 2 and 16 have been amended in order to more particularly recite the invention of claim 26. Additionally, claims 3-10, 12-15, 18, 19 and 25 are amended in conformity therewith and/or for better idiomatic usage. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Claim 1 is objected to because of a typographical error (an “open” bracket at line 4) as stated on page 2 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants respectfully wish to point out that “close” bracket is found in the penultimate line of claim 1. Accordingly, no claim change are required.

Claims 1-16 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-4, 7-9, 11-13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,211,227 and under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the ‘227 patent. This rejection is mooted by the above amendment and all claims to recite the features of claim 26.

Claims 1, 2, 16 and 18-19 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-3 of U.S. 5,726,325 and claims 1-7, 10-14 and 16-25 as anticipated by the ‘325 patent. This rejection, too, is overcome by the above amendment of all claims to recite the features of claim 26.

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, for both failing to comply with the written description requirement and as well as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. In response, Applicants have above amended claims 1 and 16 in conformity with the showings in the specification.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the Examiner's concerns are now overcome and the claims are now in allowable condition. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1-10, 12-16, 18-20 and 25 remain presented for continued prosecution.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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